**Amendments to the Specification**

Please replace the paragraph 41, with the following rewritten paragraph:

At least certain aspects of the operations of FIGs. 4 and 5 can be performed in parallel as well as sequentially. In alternative embodiments, certain of the operations may be performed in a different order, modified or removed. In alternative embodiments, the operations of FIGs. 4, and 5 may be implemented in the network interface hardware 106. Furthermore, many of the software and hardware components have been described in separate modules for purposes of illustration. Such components may be integrated into a fewer number of components or divided into a larger number of components. Additionally, certain operations described as performed by a specific component may be performed by other components.

Please replace the paragraph 16, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In the exemplary embodiment illustrated in FIG. 2, there are four receive queues 216a…216d, four deferred procedure calls (DPC) 218a…218d, and four processors 220a…[[220m]] 220d. When the network interface hardware 106 generates an interrupt, the interrupt service routine of the device driver 112 may be called by the operating system 110. The interrupt service routine of the device driver 112 may claim the interrupt, and schedule a DPC. The DPC, when started, may process packets, such as, the packet "i" 200, received by the network interface hardware 106. In certain embodiments, a DPC is used to process packets corresponding to one processor, whereas a receive queue may have a plurality of DPCs associated with the receive queue. In the exemplary embodiment illustrated in FIG. 2, there is one DPC per receive queue. For example, receive queue "1" 216b is associated with DPC 218b that processes packet "i" 214 in the processor 220b.